

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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2 ^{A1} 1. A method for updating a configuration page on a user side of an Internet-
3 based configuration system without having to contact a server side of the configuration
4 system, the method comprising:

5 responsive to the user side receiving a user input that is associated with delta
6 configuration page information available at the user side, retrieving the
7 delta configuration page information; and

8 updating the configuration page based on the delta configuration page
9 information.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the delta configuration page information
2 is comprised of a control delta that represents changes in a control of the configuration
3 page as a result of the user input.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the delta configuration page information
2 embodies preprocessed configuration engine computations that are responsive to the user
3 input.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating step further comprises:
2 layering the delta configuration page information that is associated with the
3 user input into the configuration page via Dynamic HTML.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the updating step is performed by a
2 process that is embedded in the configuration page.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the delta page information is embedded in
2 the configuration page.

1 7. A method for transmitting product configuration information generated by
2 a server side of an Internet-based configuration system to a user side of the configuration
3 system, the method comprising:

4 generating a configuration page that allows a user to provide a user input to the
5 configuration system;

6 associating delta configuration page information with the configuration page;
 7 and
 8 transmitting the configuration page and the delta configuration page
 9 information to the user side from the server side.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the associating step is performed as part
 2 of the generating step.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the delta configuration page information
 2 is contained in a look-up table and the associating step further comprises:
 3 organizing the delta configuration page information within the look-up table
 4 pursuant to an indexing scheme; and
 5 embedding the look-up table in the configuration page.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the delta configuration page information
 2 is indexed according to specific user inputs that can be provided from the configuration
 3 page, each specific user input being related to a portion of the delta configuration page
 4 information.

1 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the delta configuration page information
 2 is comprised of a control delta that represents changes in a control of the configuration
 3 page as a result of the user input.

1 12. The method of claim 7, wherein the delta configuration page information
 2 embodies preprocessed configuration engine computations that are responsive to the user
 3 input.

1 13. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
 2 transmitting a process for updating the configuration page with the delta
 3 configuration page information to the user side from the server side.

1 14. A method for receiving over the Internet product configuration
 2 information generated by an Internet-based configuration system, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving a user input that is not associated with locally available delta configuration page information, requesting a new configuration page; and

receiving the new configuration page and delta configuration page information that is associated with the new configuration page.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein in response to receiving a particular user input, the delta configuration page information is combined with the configuration page thereby defining a new configuration page that is responsive to the particular user input.

16. A method for transmitting page information generated on a server side of a network to a client side of that network, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving a request for page information that is not available at the client side, generating a page that reflects the requested information and is associated with delta page information; and

transmitting the page and the delta page information to the client side.

17. A method for updating a page on a client side of a network without having to contact a server side of that network, the method comprising:

responsive to the client side receiving a user input that is associated with delta page information available at the client side, retrieving the delta page information; and

updating the page based on the delta page information.

18. A method for receiving page information on a client side of a network from a server side of that network, the method comprising.

responsive to receiving a user input that is not associated with delta page information available at the client side, requesting a new page; and

receiving the new page and delta page information that is associated with the new page.

19. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor included on a user side of an Internet-based configuration system, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

responsive to the user side receiving a user input that is associated with delta configuration page information available at the user side, retrieving the delta configuration page information; and

updating a configuration page based on the delta configuration page information without having to contact a server side of the configuration system.

20. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor included on a server side of an Internet-based configuration system, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

generating a configuration page that allows a user to provide input to the configuration system;

associating delta configuration page information with the configuration page; and

transmitting the configuration page and the delta configuration page information.

21. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a processor included on a user side of an Internet-based configuration system, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

responsive to receiving a user input that is not associated with delta configuration page information available at the user side, requesting a new configuration page; and

receiving the new configuration page and delta configuration page information that is associated with the new configuration page.